

CREATION

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Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

by *Dr David Rosevear*

2 October p.42 Review of book *Where Good Ideas Come From* by **Stephen Johnson**.

The claim is made that Gutenberg got his idea for the printing press from considering screw press grape crushing technology.

“A peak moment in the history of innovation occurred millions of years before the arrival of *Homo sapiens*, when feathered dinosaurs first soared above the Earth. The feathers were not adapted for flight, having evolved as insulation: the dinosaurs hijacked a useful trait for a novel purpose, a classic case of what palaeontologists call exaptation.”

Leaving aside the possible link between wine making and printing, there are several problems with Johnson’s hypothesis:

Man, we are told on the highest Authority, was made at the beginning (Matt 19:4), along with behemoth and the rest of creation (Job 40). There were no millions of years (Gen 1).

Feathered dinosaur fossils turn out to have had, not feathers, but fibres.

Feathers used for insulation on birds are different in structure from flight feathers: the latter need to be air-tight for lift-off. Even the reviewer wasn’t happy with the hypothesis. Just so!

NS for 2nd October included the fourth Instant Expert entitled *Extreme Weather* – recommended.

9 October p.6 **Census reveals sea life**

A ten-year Census of Marine Life has been completed, with 2,700 scientists spending 9,000 days at sea. They have described a quarter of a million marine species out of the million thought to exist. **“The species identified include several thought extinct,**



The amazing diversity of marine life is a fact, but its supposed evolutionary history is hardly a watertight hypothesis. Image: Haplochromis, Wikipedia, under GNU Free Documentation Licence, Version 1.2

such as the ‘Jurassic shrimp’ which was believed to have died out 50 million years ago.”

This simply means that the shrimp hasn’t been observed as a fossil or alive between the time Jurassic rocks were laid down and the present. Perhaps 50 my is a bit of an exaggeration.

9 October p.12 Faster, safer route to stem cells unveiled

“A technique for making stem cells from adult skin cells without tinkering with their DNA could herald a breakthrough in the quest for stem-cell therapies that do not rely on embryo-derived cells.”

These cells, derived from skin-cells, can turn into any kind of tissue. Up to now, genes have been introduced to make the four switches that turn skin cells into stem cells, but there is a risk of inducing cancerous activity. Now messenger RNA copies of the four genes have been added to the fluid in the cells to circumvent this problem. In the cells, the mRNA is made directly into the four switches without affecting the cell’s DNA. Using embryonic stem cells involves killing a potential child, made in the image of God.

9 October p.14 Happiness is yours for the taking

“Choose wisely when considering a partner, whether to attend church and how you look after your body. These decisions could have a significant effect on your overall life satisfaction. That’s according to a study that challenges the theory that life happiness is largely predetermined by your genes.”

The 25 year survey questioned up to 60,000 people a year in Germany.

“People whose annual survey responses changed to place a higher priority on altruistic behaviours and family goals

were rewarded with a long-term increase in life satisfaction. Those who prioritised career and material success, however, experienced a corresponding lasting decline.

“Having strong religious commitments also seemed to help in the pursuit of happiness. ‘People who attend church regularly seem to be happier than people who are not religious,’ says Headley.

The researchers found similar results in the UK and Australia.

9 October p.32 50 ideas to change science

[This cover story extends over ten pages, so in my usual biased way I will just quote some interesting bits –DR.]

“The exact nature of the first cell, the forerunner of all life today, is still a mystery. It is an exciting puzzle, but reconstructing events that took place 4 billion years ago is no mean feat.”

So, one idea to change science would be to discover the secret of Creation.

“We don’t know what caused this disaster [mass extinction]. But the radical reassessment of its importance shows how ancient fossils remain a fertile field for new thinking.”

Science also needs to recognise that the Creator who made the first cell is a holy God who judged the world with a worldwide geological upheaval.

“The question ‘what is consciousness?’ represents one of the great frontiers of contemporary science.”

Science needs to recognise that there is more to life than material molecules, and then look for the non-material Source.

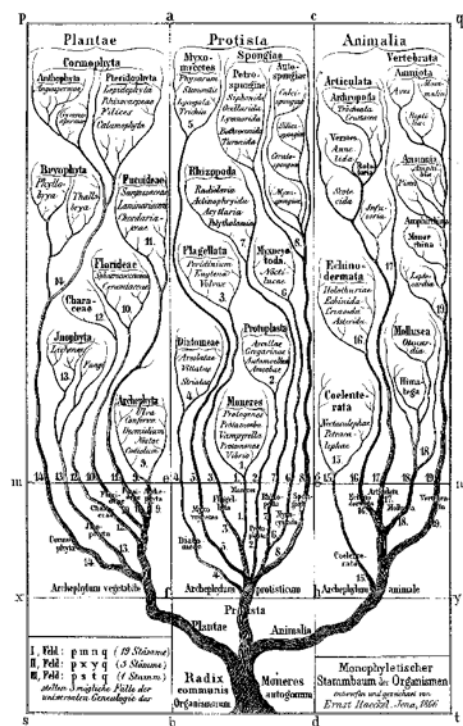
“If only we could take a leaf out of nature’s book, which uses highly specialised enzymes as catalysts to churn out vast quantities of the molecules life needs...Ultimately, the aim is to trump nature. Compared with artificial

catalysts, enzymes are wrapped around a fairly limited range of metals at their core. By combining the best of natural and artificial catalysts, we might be able to make enzymes – and final products – that are capable of simply anything.”

Can scientists improve on the handiwork of the God who made all things ‘very good’? Of course, the judgment of the Fall led to imperfections which Christ will reverse when He returns to reign.

“The tree of life with its tidily ramifying branches, a metaphor for the theory of evolution, has been uprooted.”

A big idea to change science would be to uproot the theory of evolution itself.



Ernst Haeckel's 1866 version of the evolutionary tree of life - an elaborate example of wishful thinking. Image in the public domain.

“But although we can infer individual connections, we have no basic wiring diagram of the human brain.”

Science needs to recognise Intelligent Design by its irreducible complexity.

“A leaf is a beautiful thing. It is also a wonder of chemical engineering. Within it, photosynthetic reaction-centres collect solar energy to drive the transformation of water and carbon dioxide in the air into sugars that nourish and build the plant. Would that we could do something similar.”

There, that’s sorted out Science!

16 October p.28 The Chaos Theory of Evolution

“In 1856, geologist Charles Lyell wrote to Charles Darwin with a question about fossils. Puzzled by types of mollusc that abruptly disappeared from the British fossil record, apparently in response to a glaciation, only to reappear 2 million years later completely unchanged, he asked Darwin: ‘Be so good as to explain all this in your next letter.’ Darwin never did.

“To this day Lyell’s question has never received an adequate answer. I believe that is because there isn’t one.”

The Jurassic shrimp of 9 October page 6 above provides the answer. The fossil record was not laid down over millions of years by a uniformitarian process as Lyell supposed. It was the result of a year-long worldwide flood, with subsequent local adjustments due to tsunamis, earthquakes and local flooding since.

The article, written by evolutionary Professor Keith Bennett, continues:

“Adaptation certainly appears to hold true in microevolution – small scale evolutionary change within species, such as changes in beak shape in Galapagos

finches in response to available food sources.

“However, there is still huge debate about the role of natural selection and adaptation in ‘macroevolution’ – big evolutionary events such as changes in biodiversity over time, evolutionary radiations and, of course, the origin of species. Are these the cumulative outcome of the same processes that drive microevolution, or does macroevolution have its own distinct processes and patterns?”

Small scale changes within species can occur because there is a variety of genes within organisms that have more or less the same function, some more fitted to a change in environment (such as food sources). They are called alleles – other genes (Greek: Allos, comparing varied items of the same sort). So if there is a change in the environment, the organisms with the fittest alleles survive and reproduce. This is variation within a kind, sometimes called microevolution.

However, to change an organism into something radically different, such as a reptile into a bird, would require new genes not already present. Genes, with their information content, cannot arise by chance changes, so macroevolution does not happen. Darwin got it wrong. Even large changes in the environment, such as the onset of the Ice Age, can only cause extinctions, but not new genes.

“Both studies show that most species remain unchanged for hundreds of thousands of years, perhaps longer, and across several ice ages. Species undergo major changes in distribution and abundance, but show no evolution of morphological characteristics despite major environmental changes.”

So what could possibly bring about macroevolution? **“If environmental**

changes as substantial as continent-wide glaciations do not force evolutionary change, then what does? It is hard to see how adaptation by natural selection during lesser changes might then accumulate and lead to macro-evolution.”

“We still have much to learn about how life evolved but we will not develop a full appreciation until we accept the complexity of the system.” Could chance (chaotic) mutations lead to new kinds of organisms, as the writer of this article thinks? Only if we abandon science and instead choose to believe in miracles.

It would be more logical to believe in the all wise Creator than in chaotic changes in extremely complex creatures.

23 October p.12 Is climate shaping human evolution

Here is yet another claim for evolution that is really variation within a kind - humans. A tribe that lives on the edge of the Sahara Desert where conditions are exceptionally dry has been found to have a particularly long sequence of genetic information in genes known to be involved in water retention in the kidneys. This sequence is also found around the world at higher frequencies in regions where rainfall is lower. The genes are provided by a caring Creator. Those in a population who have the long sequence cope with the arid conditions better and have more offspring to pass the genes on to. So a greater proportion of the population carry the allele as time goes by. It does not make them other than human. It is not part of a trend leading to Darwinian macroevolution. Macroevolution has never been observed, and there is no mechanism whereby mutations could accomplish it.

23 October p.14 Creationism still alive and kicking in US public schools

For many years, American evolutionists have used their constitutional separation of church and state to argue that teaching about a Creator in science lessons is illegal. School boards have been taken to court for teaching creationism and intelligent design. From an educational point of view, teaching both Darwinism and Creation would develop a student's critical faculty. Prof. Michael Reiss lost his post as Director of Education at the Royal Society for even suggesting that we teach the controversy in UK schools. But God must not be allowed a foot in the door, as one evolutionist put it.

“Yet intelligent design and the creationism for which it is a front are far from dead in the US, and the threat to the teaching of evolution remains.” The state of Louisiana passed a state education act in 2008 that allows local boards to teach both interpretations, calling it ‘academic freedom’. **“In 2009 the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a policy that prevents Louisiana school boards from stopping schools using supplementary creationist texts hostile to evolution, such as books published by the Discovery Institute... In one Louisiana township, Livingston Parish, creationist board members have proclaimed their desire to have creationism taught alongside evolution in the next academic year. ‘This is happening with no outcry from the media or from the scientific community in Louisiana,’ [philosopher] Forrest says.”**

23 October p.17 What is the Universe really made of?

This is not a New Scientist article but an advertisement for a course of 24 half-hour lectures on DVDs, reduced to \$50 to clear. **“In recent years, scientists have discovered [sic] that 95 percent of the**

contents of the cosmos is invisible to all current methods of direct detection. Yet something is definitely there, governing the shape and fate of our universe. The phenomena, called dark matter and dark energy, are the most eagerly studied subjects in astronomy and particle physics today.”

CSM will not be selling these courses!

30 October p.5 Useless genes

“Every human inherits 250 to 300 genes that don’t work, according to scans of DNA from almost 900 people by the international ‘1000 Genome Project’. Luckily, most of us inherit back-up copies of the same genes from our other parent. So no harm done.”

Our first parents were made in the image of God, with perfect DNA Gen. 1:26-28. Things began to be corrupted when the Lord cursed mankind, animal and plant life, together with the earth itself, because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience Gen. 3:14-19. The genes reproduce themselves, and in doing so mutations slip in. A complex proof-reading system repairs most mistakes, but occasionally genes are rendered useless. With sexual reproduction mammals inherit a set of genes from each parent, so if there is a faulty gene from one parent, the equivalent gene from the other parent takes over. If the parents are siblings or closely related, they may both carry the same faulty gene and the offspring will be less fit. In the early centuries after the Flood, mutations were still rare, so folk like Abraham and Sarah could have a healthy family, even though they were closely related (Sarah was Abraham’s half sister). By the time of Moses, mutations were accumulating, so God warned against incest (Lev. 18). Some heritable mutations are harmless, many lead to disabilities and some are lethal. Thousands of years after

the Fall, we each now carry hundreds of useless genes. This is still a very small proportion of our total genome.

In the early 20th century, evolutionists realised that the mechanism proposed by Darwin needed a source of new genetic information. They proposed neo-Darwinism, whereby mutations that were beneficial were selected by nature. A few examples have been cited, such as sickle-cell anaemia, but that is only preferable to healthy blood cells in the presence of malaria-carrying mosquitoes. People having this mutation are not healthy, and tend to die before puberty. Evolution has no viable mechanism.

30 October p.16 Did life begin with a bolt from the blue?

Not only is evolution impossible, but life cannot be made apart from an intelligent Creator God. A common belief is that life originated at hydrothermal vents in the deep ocean. (This has the advantage of placing the origin of life long ago and far away.) It has now been discovered that a sulphur-rich chimney from the ocean floor can generate an electric current from free electrons when transferred to a laboratory.

“The next step, they say, is to confirm that black smokers generate electricity where they are at the bottom of the ocean, not just in the lab.”

Could these electric currents have helped to generate the complex carbon-based molecules that must have come together to produce life in the absence of a Creator? Well, Bram Stoker thought so.

30 October p.17 The tongue in your lung that fights asthma

“Taste receptors for bitter flavours have been discovered in lung tissue. What’s more, they respond to bitter substances by dilating the airways of asthmatic

mice, paving the way for a different approach to asthma treatment.”

Bitter substances would need to be inhaled.

“Bronchodilation is consistent with wanting to get rid of toxins from the lungs... We need to open passageways to cough easily and to allow contaminated mucus being pushed out to flow well.”

Here is another example of intelligent design by a caring Creator.

6 November, Instant Expert 5: Human Origins

The author of this insert, fossil hunter Dr Tim White, reportedly found the ‘oldest human ancestor’ in 1994, but then found a complete skeleton of the same chimp-like species 18 months later and realised it was not one of our forebears.

White traces our ancestry back 6 million years to *Ardipithecus*, but how does he date the sediments in which the fossils are found? **“It was there last February that our Middle Awash field camp was inundated. When the floodwaters evaporated, the millimetre of silt left behind became the youngest stratum in**



Ardipithecus ramidus skull. Image: Funkmonk, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

a succession of sediment layers that is today about 1.5 kilometres thick. These layers have been accumulating for 6 million years as rivers and lakes came and went.” White should know from recent examples, such as tsunamis and the Mt St Helens eruption that sediment layers are laid down catastrophically. The worldwide flood in the days of Noah laid down most of the world’s sediments and buried most of the fossils.

“Twelve million years ago, Earth was a planet of the apes. Fossil evidence shows there were many ape species spread across the Old World, from Namibia to Germany to China. About 7 million years ago, a long-gone African species whose fossils have yet to be found was the last common ancestor shared by humans and our closest living relatives, the chimpanzees... later, another African descendent of *Homo erectus* – one that would eventually vaingloriously name itself *Homo sapiens* – again ventured beyond the continent. It has now reached the moon, and perhaps soon, will stand on a neighbouring planet. Not bad for a two-legged primate.”

Apparently, invention of stone tools by early hominids led to the availability of a plentiful diet of meat, which in turn led to an enlargement of the braincase and the ability to travel to Europe and Indonesia.

How wonderful!

Since White is of the opinion that mankind has developed from some yet to be discovered ape over 7 million years, losing its body hair, changing its opposing big toes and its ear labyrinths, acquiring language along with a voice box and new brain areas, it comes as a surprise to read:

“Whether modern human DNA samples are taken in the Arctic or the Congo, our DNA is remarkably similar to each other’s, especially when compared with

the variation seen in most other mammals.” With all those seemingly chance mutations, how come we all finished up the same?

White concludes: “Given the facts, it would not be wise to gamble on the widely held but risky notion that our future will be guided to good ends by divine intervention. Having evolved the capacity to influence the global future, it is high time the species begins to act sapiently.”

Theistic evolutionists should note the natural link between Darwinism and atheism.

13 November p.8 Evolution by shake, rattle and roll

According to this article, human evolution was aided by living in areas of Africa that are tectonically active. “Intelligent species would have thrived in these deformed landscapes... Eventually they developed large brains, a prolonged childhood and the use of advanced tools and weapons. Less smart species would not have had the ability to use the uneven ground to their advantage.”

So why haven’t mountain goats developed weapons of mass destruction, apart from their horns? The piece admits that a lack of conclusive evidence has hampered the acceptance of this theory.

13 November p.36 Living on the edge

Living things have colonised virtually every place on Earth, no matter how inhospitable. This article by science journalist Caroline Williams describes some of the remarkable creatures able to survive under extreme conditions of cold and heat, pressure, lack of water, and utmost boundaries of size.

Emperor penguins huddle together in the Antarctic to survive at air temperatures

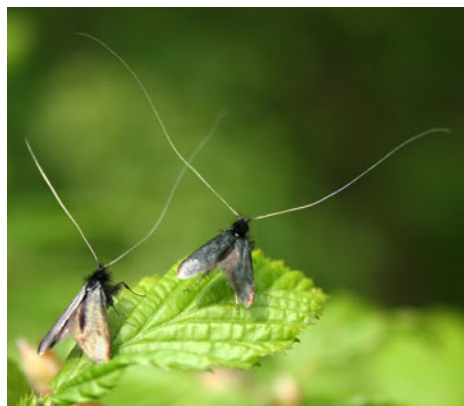
down to -60°C , even though ice crystals can rip apart cell membranes. Arctic springtails manufacture antifreeze to avoid this fate.

A microbe called Strain 121 living in submarine hydrothermal vents can withstand temperatures of 121°C , and survived 130° briefly in the lab.

Some fish live at a depth of almost 9,000 metres (say 4,500 fathoms in old money). They use a compound trimethylamine oxide to help their proteins fold properly under such pressure.

At 30 metres long and weighing in at 190 tonnes, blue whales may be about as big as it is possible for this type of animal to get. The giant sequoia tree known as General Sherman has a trunk volume of around 1,500 cubic metres, while the tallest tree, also in California, is 115 metres high. The top leaves have to draw water up all the way from the roots.

Among the smallest bacteria by size at 300 nm, *Mycoplasma genitalium* has the smallest genome of any organism, comprising just 580,000 base pairs, or a mere 482 genes.



Great or small, all organisms exhibit astonishing complexity, the mark of a highly intelligent Designer. Image: CSM

Many frogs, worms and others hibernate through the dry season. They can replace the water in their bodies with sugar, turning their cytoplasm into a solid called sugar glass.

One recalls the children's song "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."

He pronounced them all very good.

20 November p.19 Living solar cells power sun-loving hornet

Those old enough to remember Dr Moon's *Fact & Faith* films will not be surprised to hear that the Creator has a *Prior Claim* on the creation of solar cells that generate electricity from sunlight.

"Beneath its yellow and brown stripes, the oriental hornet packs a power cell that would turn the Energiser bunny green with envy. This insect is known for being able to trap sunlight, and now we know more about how it's done.

"Under a high-powered microscope, the yellow segments of the cuticle can be seen to be made up of layers of proteins and lipid, which form oval lumps at the surface. Plotkin [and Ishay, both from Tel Aviv] believes this structure explains why the surface is so absorbent. [It traps 99 per cent of the sun's rays.] At the base of the structure is a pigment called xanthopterin which can take the solar energy and convert it to electricity... enzymes in the yellow cuticle perform metabolic functions similar to those of mammalian livers, and they are more active when the insects were exposed to ultraviolet light. Plotkin believes the hornets may use the electricity they generate from solar radiation to drive the reactions catalysed by these enzymes."

The article does not suggest that the Creator designed this irreducibly complex

arrangement. That would stir up a hornet's nest.

**27 November p.42 Masters of Magnetism
“Birds perform their extraordinary feats of navigation using not just one magnetic sense, but two”**

It has been known since 1966 that birds, along with a wide variety of creatures, use magnetic iron particles that interact with the earth's magnetic field to navigate. Magnetic crystals were found in birds as diverse as homing pigeons, robins, chickens and warblers, in nerve endings in the skin inside the upper beak. Not only birds, but salmon and trout, bees and ants, turtles and lobsters and bats, have iron-based magnetoreceptors. These crystals **“respond to changes in the intensity of the magnetic field rather than its direction.”**

Compasses that enable migrating creatures to find directions have been found in the retina of the eye. Blue-green light reacts with molecules called cryptochromes that form radical pairs by flipping the direction of spin of some pairs of electrons. This produces a magnetic field **“In fact, the tight connection between vision and magneto-reception suggests that birds can literally see magnetic fields.”**

The earth's magnetic field strength varies from place to place, so migrating species can build up a mental map of these contours. They also use the information from their retinas to find the direction in which to go.

“Of course in natural situations, birds use a whole range of clues for navigation, not just magnetism. They also use the sun and stars, smells, visual landmarks and perhaps even sounds like waves breaking.”

These fail-safe navigational aids were built into the creatures by a caring Creator from the beginning, even though the

phenomenon of migration is probably post-Flood. The necessary complex chemicals and nervous system could hardly arise by chance, since unless they were fully formed and functioning they would be useless. Natural selection would reject them. Mutations would only destroy such complex systems.

The **December Instant Expert NS insert** gave the low-down on the **origin of speech**. It admitted the obvious, that only humans have this facility to communicate by voice, but noted that one particular ape had been trained to recognise and react to a whole load of words and phrases. Unfortunately this simian hadn't mastered the art of answering back. The picture of a parrot reminded us that some birds can articulate phrases, but they don't understand what they are squawking. If they did they would be embarrassed to let on that they thought they were pretty boys.

Humans have a hyoid bone that anchors muscles to vocal chords, and a *FOXP2* gene vital for speech. The frontal lobes of the human brain are involved in processing words. A young child is born with the innate skill to understand any language that it picks up from those around it, though struggling with bonus, bona, bonum later at school it may seem all Greek.

Despite the photos of an ape and a parrot, this expert convinced me that speech had not evolved. The Creator communed with our first parents in the Garden. It didn't take millions of years. “And God said...”

4 December p.32 One of the family?

“Synonymous with a brutish lack of refinement, Neanderthals are ripe for rebranding.”

“French palaeontologist Marcellin Boule [in the 1850s] recognised the fossils as ancient, but ignored signs that the

specimen he studied suffered from arthritis. It was he who reconstructed the bent-kneed, shambling brute that still lurks in the back of most people's minds." Neanderthals lived in much of modern-day Eurasia during a time of severe climate change. Many creationists believe this was the time of the Ice Age that would have followed the Flood, with volcanically heated seas evaporating water because of the breaking up of the fountains of the deep. The land cooled by evaporation following the loss of a water vapour canopy set in place on Day 2 of Creation week, since the windows of heaven opened during the Flood. Lots of steam condensing onto cold land is a recipe for an ice age. The descendants of Noah had to cope with the harsh climate and the lack of facilities on the now barren Earth. They lived in dens and caves, and a diet of raw meat probably gave them eyebrow ridges to anchor muscles for chewing. With the end of the ice age they would have reverted to the appearance of today's humans.

"The long-held view that Neanderthals were inferior to *Homo sapiens* is changing as, one by one, capabilities thought unique to us have been linked to them... Neanderthals thought like we did, talked like we did and enriched their world with music, decoration and symbols as we did. It has even been suggested that we are the same species." The oldest known musical instrument, a flute fashioned from the bone of a bear, was made by a Neanderthal. They wore skins as clothes, softened with their teeth. (Their incisors are often worn down while their molars are fine.) They hunted rhinos and mammoths using hafted spears where wood and metal were combined using complex glue. Skeletons have been

unearthed showing that injured individuals had been nursed until healed.

Neanderthal brains were similar or larger than our own, and despite their sloping brows, had frontal lobes and speech areas like ours. They had a hyoid bone in the neck designed to anchor muscles used in speech. They possessed a *FOXP2* gene associated with language in humans. Geneticists have recovered some 60 per cent of the Neanderthal genome, and found it to be virtually the same as our own.

So what does it all add up to? Neanderthals cannot now be regarded as a stage in the evolution of our kind, helping to fill the yawning gap between apes and men. All the evidence points to them having been fully human, living during severe climate changes. Dressed in a city suit, such a one wouldn't warrant a second glance.

11 December p.36 Flight of the living dead

"We know dinosaurs live on as birds, but how did they take over the world?"

"But the evolutionary history of birds has long been an enigma. Ever since a single fossil feather was dug up 150 years ago, the origins of birds have been one of biology's most contentious issues.

"That has all changed with a string of recent discoveries, most notably the famous feathered dinosaurs of China."

When your reviewer examined the 'feathers' at a recent exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London, they were clearly not flight feathers. They were filaments.

This article casts doubt on the flying ability of the fossil bird, archaeopteryx. This bird, found in a German quarry just after the publication of Darwin's opus, is considered to be the oldest known fossil bird. Yet studies of its well-preserved cranium show that it was well equipped to fly. **"However, archaeopteryx did have**

the large brain and excellent sight of a flying bird, according to a team who used computed tomography to scan the interior of its skull... The shape and volume of the brain and inner ear were almost identical to those of modern birds. **‘It was a flight-ready brain’ says Angela Milner**” of the NHM.

Yet some evolutionists want to re-classify this ancient bird as a dinosaur. The article admits that **“the magic moment when dinosaurs became birds is impossible to pin down.”**

While birds and some dinosaurs share many skeletal similarities, so too do chimps and humans. Fossil skeletons can be misleading. The article has a photo of a living hoatzin chick, a modern bird with claws on its wings like archaeopteryx, said to be a reptilian feature.

Experts say that feathers evolved initially for display and for insulation. They argue as to whether flight began by creatures running and jumping or by creatures gliding down from the trees.

The article wonders why birds survived the extinction of the dinosaurs.



Fossils with distinct impressions of feathers, such as *Confuciusornis*, do not have the features intermediate between dinosaurs and modern-day birds that evolutionists long to see. They are clearly birds. Image: CSM.

“Unfortunately we don’t know for sure whether Cretaceous neornithines [?] had a wulst [?] because the only confirmed fossil we have, Vegavis, lacks a skull.” Small wonder that one didn’t survive!

But seriously, cold blooded reptiles, and birds with their fast metabolisms, would not be expected to thrive or become extinct under the same set of circumstances.

18 December p.18 How Earth lucked out in gold stakes

Apparently Earth has more gold than it should have. **“The shiny stuff is one of several metals that are puzzlingly common.”**

“The planets took shape when tiny rocks collided, forming ever larger lumps. After Earth was born a planet crashed into it, blasting a huge cloud of material into orbit, where it coalesced to form the moon. The collision re-melted Earth, allowing heavy materials like iron to sink into the core. Siderophiles, elements including gold, platinum and palladium, dissolve in molten iron. So there shouldn’t actually be any siderophiles in the crust or mantle.”

Researchers then thought up a scenario to explain where the gold came from once the Earth had settled down. It doesn’t seem to have occurred to them that their Just So story of how the Earth was formed might be very wide of the mark (see Genesis 1:1). The experience with atom smashers like the Large Hadron Collider at CERN should tell them that throwing particles together, even at high velocities, does not cause them to agglomerate but rather to disintegrate further.

18 December p.32 Celestial renegades

Here is another puzzle that disappears if you look at it through creationist spectacles. Triton, the largest moon of the distant

planet Neptune, spins on its axis in the opposite direction to that of its planet. **“Since the sun and the planets congealed from disc material swirling around in the same direction [Just So], the planets have naturally ended up orbiting in the same plane as the sun’s equator and in the same direction it is spinning.”**

“Large moons form out of the debris swirling around a newborn planet, so they should circle in the same direction as the planet’s rotation. The fact that Triton, whose diameter is one-fifth that of the Earth, does not circle in this way suggests that its origins lie elsewhere.”

There follows a complex scenario involving Pluto.

“Whatever the true story, it is an extraordinary one, as is the very existence of backwards planets. They show that there is far more going on than our simple model of the formation of the solar system would suggest... Its rocky planets survived in the habitable zone and their orbits have remained nearly circular even though large planets may have crossed their path. We may find that worlds like our own – Earth sized, rocky planets in circular orbits – are actually quite rare.”

25 December/1 January 2011 p.8 Border collie is fluent in toyspeak

“A border collie called Chaser has been taught the names of 1022 items – more than any other animal. She can also categorise them according to function and shape, something children learn to do around the age of 3.”

This feat is better than that of the ape referred to above (Instant Expert – Speech, 4 December) but no one is suggesting that humans evolved from collie dogs.

25 December/1 January p.63 Attack me if you dare

Animal defence mechanisms include the Texas horned lizards that if threatened can shoot jets of poison blood from their eyes, and sea cucumbers that can expel their digestive tracts at predators only to grow them back again. About half a page of text and picture is given over to the self-defence of the bombardier beetle. CSM’s pamphlet no. 233 in 1987 discussed the point that for the beetle to survive, its complex chemical arsenal had to be fully functional from the start, and could not have evolved a little at a time. Similarly, the sea cucumber had to master the art of re-growing its guts before it went in for its eviscerating party trick – unless, of course, it had been designed that way by its Creator.

More adventures with CSM

On reflection a lot was left out of previous *CSM Adventures*.

David had been invited to lecture at Moscow’s National Academy of Education. The conference was instigated by President Yeltsin, no less, to celebrate 2,000 years of Christianity. We were made welcome by the President of the NAE who turned out to be a creationist! Although we were the only English delegates, there was a large contingent from America with whom we visited schools. They were handing out Russian Bibles. The atheistic communist regime had not long collapsed and the Russian Orthodox Church was concerned about the children who had missed out on Bible teaching. The Ten Commandments as the new basis for teaching morality carried the day - what a victory! How much

our own young Brits need such knowledge! I was permitted to offer to that august assembly the information that teaching of evolution theory had undermined morality in our country. David gave a short lecture on Creation science. We had gone there to fight our corner and extol our Saviour/Creator.

One thing David and I remember vividly was the sparkingly beautiful Church of Christ the Saviour. The communists had razed it to the ground and installed a swimming pool on the site. But once that regime had toppled, the Muscovites insisted on having their church back. It was restored in every detail, and we saw it ... and marvelled!

Afterwards we were driven between banks of snow (it was March) twenty miles north of the capital to visit two schools and an orphanage. One class danced for us. They had been schooled by teachers from the Bolshoi Ballet; an excellent performance, never to be forgotten. Back in Moscow, we watched a performance of Giselle at the Bolshoi Theatre. Our Ukrainian Friend Sergei Golivin, who had translated David's book into Russian, took us to visit a group of Muscovite creationists in a pastor's home. Yes, vivid memories, often recalled.

One year we were invited to do a radio phone-in programme in Monte Carlo. Radio Riviera caters for English-speakers. Caravans are not permitted in the town and we were stopped by the police. We told them we were expecting to park in our friend's garden (not knowing that the address was a block of flats). We had to drive out of the Principality first to park the caravan on an official site. The phone-in was lively and a success.

On then to the Dordogne. We had been invited to a Chateau where the estate manager, a CSM member (now promoted to Glory), and his boss, a French count with his American wife, had asked us to discuss Creation over a meal. One of David's more unusual lecture venues.

You may well have seen the Lascaux cave paintings in the Dordogne. Astonishing and startling, that cave is a reproduction of the real thing. Apparently thousands of tourists breathing on the paintings in the 'prehistoric' cave system were spoiling the ancient ochre colours. (So how come the paintings were apparently several tens of thousands of years old, yet still unspoilt?) The 'cave-men' artists achieved such life-like images while lying on their backs in narrow tunnels lit by torches, painting overhead like Michaelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. Outside Lascaux in a cave some miles away we saw an ichthyosaur etched in the rock face amidst beasts familiar to us all. The guide declared it was not an ichthyosaur at all. I preferred to believe what I saw with my own eyes. You may have seen the ichthyosaur fossil copy on the wall in the Genesis Expo.

Later, we and a number of British creationists were lured to the north of Spain to visit dinosaur country in the Pyrenees. In vehicles coping easily with the hairpin bends we reached one particular mountain, and disembarking we trudged up to a plateau on top. Before us was a trail of 14 unmistakable dinosaur footprints. An enormous creature had ambled over this rock when it was soft and malleable, which had then hardened and become history. We painted latex into one finely etched print, but since we were on the snow-line the rubber took hours to set. A cast is now in the Genesis Expo, along with the clutch of

dinosaur eggs from Belgium. We found several pieces of scree that fitted together to reveal a footprint, the only dinosaur fossil that any of us brought home. A careful search of the mountainside revealed a gigantic footprint of ... an Apatosaurus?

Creation conferences in the Evangelical Theological Faculty at Leuven University, Belgium were always chaired by David. He had a task similar to football referees; it was sometimes a question of keeping the peace between creationists from all over Europe. One April when Belgium was gripped by snow, David was invited to teach there for a week-long session of Creation Science seminars. The ETF students declared they had to check out more Scripture references for him than was required in the Theology lectures. The university building was so cold I retreated to the caravan and arranged for an electricity supply to be 'piped' out of a window to the caravan where I *was* warm.

Yes, David and I had many adventures with the CSM (at our own expense of course, never CSM). It was important, very important, to experience and see evidence of the Creator's work, as well as to drive in the UK and on the Continent simply to give a lecture. And it was such fun. Thank you, thank you Lord!

JR

Letters

Dear Sirs

Thank you very much for the Creation Science Movement materials that you provide for us constantly. It is a great support for our ministry. The materials are very useful and encouraging. They serve as

a great tool for the effective spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ in our part of the world, and are widely used by evangelists and apologists all over the former Soviet Union.

We would highly appreciate if you could renew the subscription as a donation to our ministry. May the Lord bless you and the work you do for the sake of the Kingdom!
Yours by His grace,

Sergei Golovin

President, Christian Centre for Science and Apologetics, Simferopol, Ukraine.

3/11/2010

CSM, Dear Friends

I enclose a cheque for subscription, plus contribution for another year. Please treat as Gift Aid for tax reclaim; you have my declaration.

I do find 'Creation' and the pamphlets some of the most useful material I receive. May the Lord help you to keep up the good work.

AJB, Bedford.

Dear ...

Many thanks for your recent newsletter ... You, and yours, and the ministry, have our daily prayers. May the Lord bless & uphold, and guide & provide – you are very, very precious, to Him, & to us all...

O & JB, Southampton

PS. I have always enjoyed David's gentle humour, especially when talking about Lucy & 'the problems of dating an older woman'. Brilliant!

Dear CSM

I joined CSM in 1996, the year after I became a Christian. I was aged 38 and working as a senior manager in aerospace engineering.

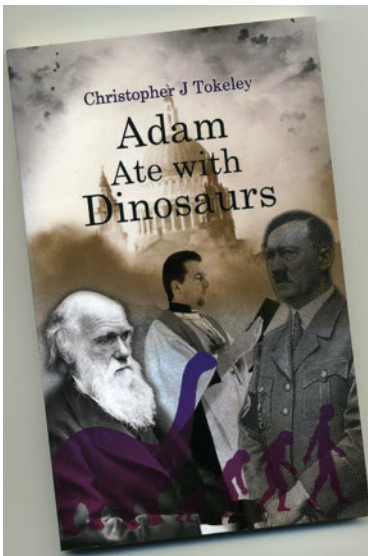
When God got my attention, through the grace of Jesus Christ, it was immediately obvious that evolution theory, which I had hitherto accepted as fact, could not possibly stand up. Alternatively, if evolution was fact, then my salvation was a fraud: how could I possibly trust a book where the opening chapter was based on a lie; a lie that runs like a thread through all the other chapters?

Far from it! Your work and resources are thoroughly faith affirming and it never ceases to amaze me how complex theology and doctrine matters are for evolutionist Christians.

JS, by email

Additions to CSM Catalogue

Adam ate with Dinosaurs by Christopher J Tokeley, Athena Press, 2010, pb. 140pp, £9-99 ISBN 978 1 84748 708 7

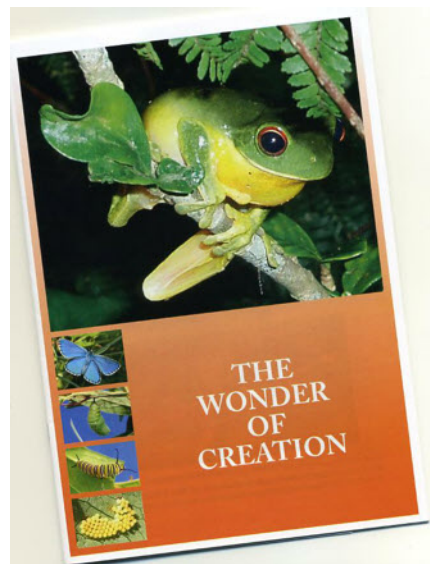


Christopher Tokeley's conclusions are uncompromising but based on a combination of extensive research and absolute faith in God's Word. Quoting from many sources, drawing on the work of scientists as well as theologians, he assembles a formidable body of evidence to support the literal accuracy of the Genesis account of Creation. Darwinism, he argues, far from being unchallengeable fact, is a religion in itself.

The book is well written, and appendixes list addresses of creationist organisations and an extensive bibliography. There are footnotes and many quotations.

The Wonder of Creation by Jennet Christie, Down to Earth Publishing, 2010, pb. 40pp, £1-50.

This thought-provoking and colourful booklet gives a host of facts and sets a number of questions to show that evolution is impossible. Which came first, the plants or the seeds? The whole cycle of seeds, seedlings, plants, buds, flowers and fruit



needed to be developed from the start. If fish really came out of the water onto the land how could they breathe with gills in water and then with lungs in air? Why are whales born fluke first or giraffes born hind feet first?

Each page has one or more coloured photographs. While a child would find the book fascinating, an adult schooled on a diet of evolution would equally have lots to digest.

Quotes

"Traditional peer review for scientific and medical journals has major flaws....Unscrupulous reviewers can delay or prevent the publication of work with which they disagree, or promote inappropriately the work of likeminded researchers." **van Rooyen, S., Delamothe, T. & Evans, S. J. W., *British Medical Journal* 2010; 341: c5729.**

"If there is no God, nothing makes sense. The atheists' case is based on a deception they wish to play upon themselves that follows already from their initial premise. And if there is a God, he must be true both to science and religion. If it seems not so, then one's hermeneutics (either the pastor's or the scientist's) must be wrong. ...If the

world must simply be understood by a materialistic reductionalist nihilism, it would make no sense at all. For this, Romans 1:19-21 seems profound."

Dr Allan Sandage

(Dr Sandage, who died on November 13 aged 84, was often described as the most influential astronomer of the last half-century, credited with founding the discipline of observational cosmology.)

"Take the first more obvious case of materialism. As an explanation of the world, materialism has a sort of insane simplicity. It has just the quality of a madman's argument; we have at once the sense of it covering everything and the sense of leaving everything out. Contemplate some able and sincere materialist... and you will have exactly this unique sensation. He understands everything and everything does not seem worth understanding. His cosmos may be complete in every rivet and cogwheel, but still his cosmos is smaller than our world."

G.K. Chesterton, 'Orthodoxy'

CSM's Journal editor would like to encourage contributions from new writers, especially from CSM's own members. Articles, letters, notes, comments, images and other contributions are all warmly welcome.

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